

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the first paragraph after the title commencing with the words "This application" and ending with the words "March 8, 2001", as follows:

This application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/872,905, filed on June 1, 2001, entitled "Tissue Distraction Device" in the name of the same inventors, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,595,998 B2, and claims the benefit of priority to United States Provisional Application No. 60/274,372, filed on March 8, 2001.